

VPS Consulting Memo

FCC Announces Census Blocks Eligible for Continued Voice-Only Lifeline Support

Summary

In the 2016 Lifeline Reform Order, the FCC began the transition to phase out the Lifeline support for voice-only services in an attempt to shift the focus of Lifeline benefits toward broadband services. The transition for voice-only supported services are:

- Until December 1, 2019 - \$9.25
- From December 1, 2019 until November 30, 2020 - \$7.25
- From December 1, 2020 until November 30, 2021 - \$5.25
- On December 1, 2021 – standalone voice service, or voice service not bundled with broadband meeting the minimum standards - \$0

The FCC provided an exception for the complete phase out of voice-only support in Census Blocks where there is only one Lifeline provider and directed the Wireline Competition Bureau to identify those Census Blocks by June 1 each year.

On June 1, 2021, the FCC released a [Public Notice](#) which contains a link of the Census Blocks. **The identified Census Blocks indicate where ETCs can continue to claim \$5.25 in reimbursement for voice-only Lifeline services offered to eligible subscribers after December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2022.**

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